The Shakerite

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Few students know the story of Kevin Young

·1993 acquittal predates menacing arrest

NEWS • Current, former students charged in assault, shooting • page 2

By Alex Buder Shapiro
NEWS EDITOR

Barely any recognition flickers across the faces of Shaker Heights High School students when the name Lisa Pruett is mentioned. A few recall hearing the name from their parents or older siblings. But, for the most part, they don't remember the stabbing of 16-year-old Pruett, a junior in September 1990. They didn't pay any attention to the trial and acquittal of Kevin Young, 18 at the time of the murder. They were too young.

This all may seem like ancient history to students, but recent events have made it relevant. On Aug. 24, Young was arrested for menacing two Shaker freshmen girls at a RTA rapid station at the corner of Warrensville Center Road and Shaker Boulevard.

"It makes you feel like you have to be more cautious [to know that people like that are around,]" sophomore Noelle Howard said.

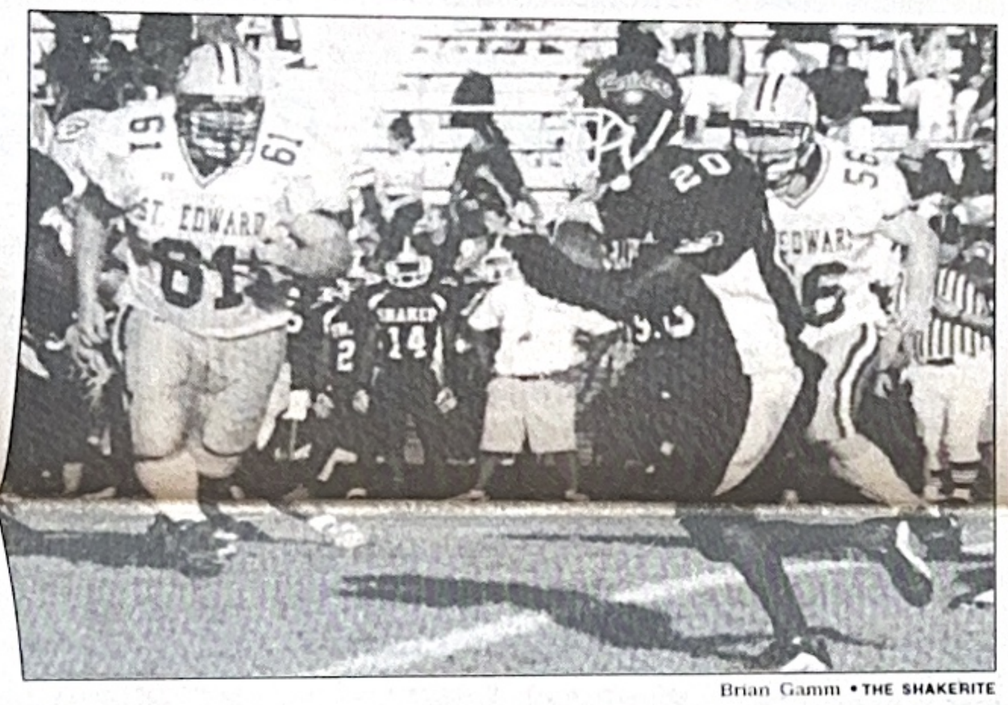
Young

Young, now 30, graduated from Shaker in 1990 and is currently living in Cleveland Heights and working as a house painter. He was the only person ever charged with Pruett's murder. She was found stabbed to death in the bushes near her boyfriend's home on Sept. 13, 1990. Young was alleged to have had an intense crush on Pruett and, during the trial, prosecutors stated that he made jealous remarks, including threats of murder, about Pruett's relationship with boyfriend Dan Dreifort. Young was

SEE YOUNG, PAGE 2

> "I would not consider him a menace in any way, shape or form."
>
> Hallie Dietsch
> junior

An impending collision



SENIOR DeAndre Goard rushes the ball as 272-lb. St. Edward lineman Jamie McManamon (61) bears down on him. The Raiders lost 55-14 Sept. 5. The team will face Euclid Sept. 28.

Brian Gamm • THE SHAKERITE

Football team hopes to regroup

By Katherine Ekeberg
SPORTS EDITOR

The goals of the football team this year: to win the LEL and to make it to the playoffs. Following a 49-0 loss to Mentor, both of these aspirations seem practically out of reach.

"Obviously those goals are long shots," Head Coach David Sedmak said.

"You try to learn from what we've been through . . . It's really a pride factor now."

It's not been an easy season for the Raiders, who are currently 2-3 and could compile their worst record since 1995.

Sedmak struggled to define the cause of his squad's problems.

"Talent-wise we're not that bad...Mentor is not 49 points better than us, Ed's is not 40 some points better than us," he said.

"When the game starts, there's a lack of intensity. When things start to go wrong, it just seems to snowball."

Byrdsong passes away

·30-year English teacher dies one month after retirement

By Kyan Safavi
NEWS EDITOR

The well-known sight of Helen Francis Byrdsong addressing her students from the podium in Room 157, poised to hand out her famous participation points, will no longer greet sophomore English students.

Byrdsong, 55, collapsed in her Cleveland Heights home on July 5 and died shortly afterward of a heart attack.

A number of students and teachers were shocked when they heard the news.

Byrdsong, who retired at the end of the 2001-2002 school year, began teaching at Byron Junior High School in 1972. After 15 years she moved to Shaker Heights High School, where she taught Honors English.

Byrdsong

"I was really shocked. I think everyone was completely surprised," said Elizabeth Colquitt, a 10 Honors and 11 College Prep English teacher. "She was my mentor last year. I'm just grateful that I had the time to talk to her and learn from her. She taught me so much."

Maia Greene-Havas, a junior who was in Byrdsong's class last year, said, "She was such an enthusiastic and energetic person. I was stunned [when she passed away]."

Winston Weatherspoon, a junior,

SEE BYRDSONG, PAGE 2

Shaker grad makes cut on American Idol

· John Manly, '99, led Chanticleers in high school

> "They did a little scene where he came out with the two producers and had him call his mom."
>
> Cornelius Manly
> father

By Emily Ozan
A&E EDITOR

"I'm going to Hollywood, mom!" exclaimed John Manly, a '99 Shaker grad.

Manly shared the big news with his mother over the phone while on network TV after making a preliminary cut on "American Idol: The Search for a Superstar," the FOX Network's summer hit, which aired June 11 to Sept. 4.

"I was intrigued by the whole idea," Manly said of the show, which had Americans across the country predicting which of the 10,000 original contestants would win a recording contract and perhaps become the country's next singing star.

Manly auditioned twice in Atlanta, where he sang James Taylor's "Shower the People" and Garth Brooks' "Dance." He was then sent to Los Angeles with 129 others who

SEE IDOL, PAGE 7

Mechanic knows more than just the nuts and bolts

· Bus technician Joe Belsan earns national certification

By Renee Frantz
STAFF REPORTER

As 4,000 Shaker elementary and middle school students board buses each day for school, few probably think about safety. But parents can rest assured that even though it's not on their children's minds, safety is a high priority for bus mechanic Joe Belsan.

Belsan recently completed a series of 21 Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) tests, making him a nationally certified bus technician and master heavy-duty truck technician. He is renewing his certification as an automotive technician.

Belsan has been taking the ASE tests voluntarily for the last 16 years. Each certification is only valid for five years, so Belsan takes the tests repeatedly to stay current. Belsan prepares for the tests by reading informational books and incorporating what he learns into his daily repairs. In April 2002, Belsan took three nights to complete all the multiple-choice tests, seven for each certification. To

Will Bostwick • THE SHAKERITE
JOE Belsan, nationally certified bus technician.

SEE MECHANIC, PAGE 6

On the Line

Do you find the way students dance at school-sponsored dances offensive?

NO 77%

YES 24%

If there were a breathalyzer test at homecoming would you still attend?

NO 14%

YES 86%

Scientific poll of 93 students with a margin of error of +/-10 percent. Journalism I, Gristmill and Shakerite classes telephoned students.

SAT changes: hello essay, bye analogies

By Anna Hutt
COPY EDITOR

Analogies are to the SAT as dinosaurs are to the earth.

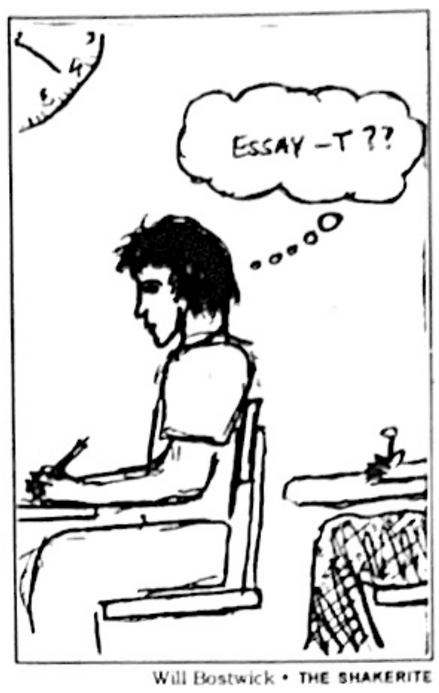
What?

Fortunately for this year's freshmen, the College Board decided this June that confusing analogy questions such as this one will soon have no place on Scholastic Aptitude Tests. College Board members have stated that although analogical reasoning is important, the SAT analogy questions have become "rather artificial."

A new form of the SAT, prepared for March 2005, will include critical reading and writing sections in place of the current verbal exam, eliminating analogies, adding reading passages, and grammar.

Freshman Laura Habat just wishes she had a better idea of what the new SAT would be like. "I'm mad," Habat said. "We don't know what to expect. No one wants to be first."

The mathematics portion of the exam will also expand to include Algebra II skills as well as Geometry and Algebra I. Math department head Gene Tournoux said he did not think the changes would have any significant effect on students, many of whom will be enrolled in Algebra II by the time of testing.



Will Bostwick • THE SHAKERITE

Freshman Matt Herzfeld, on the other hand, was pleased by the removal of analogies. "Those are stupid," he said. "I'd rather have an essay because it's a better reflection of your vocabulary and writing skills."

English department head Jon Bender pointed out that district-wide, Shaker focuses on four cornerstones of the language: writing, reading, speaking, and listening. Therefore, Shaker students won't have trouble on the SAT essay.

"As a department, we are always committed to revising our curriculum, making changes that are important to benefit students," Bender said. "Overall, our goal has been that we are student-centered."

Guidance counselor Gerimae Kleinman confirmed that Shaker already prepared students well for essays.

"Getting rid of analogies and adding a writing section isn't going to hurt Shaker students," Kleinman said. "They get strong writing components here."

Seniors worry about the effect of the new writing section for the freshman class.

"Even when we were younger," senior Lyndon Brooks said. "It was sometimes hard for people to spring forth ideas when they were given a prompt. It's going to be harder for those individuals who don't write well. On that given day, they might not be able to write a good essay."

Senior Jarryd Tribble thought the essay might not be so bad, "depending on the questions."

When asked whether the prompts would be difficult, Brooks said, "It won't be an easy question. It's the SAT."

Blast From the Past

The November 1990 Shakerite contained the article "SAT revisions to affect class of '95." The story talked about the addition of 10 to 15 open-ended math questions. The test time was lengthened.

But, contary to this month's story, the director of the Princeton Review said that the 1995 SATs would not include an essay

the News Desk

Defibrillators installed

• The school system installed 14 defibrillators in all district buildings over the summer. Each cost approximately $4,000. Two are housed in the high school. School nurse Paula Dworkin said all PE students who study CPR this year will learn to use the devices, which shock the heart to re-establish a normal heartbeat. The machines prompt users with computerized voice instructions.

Cell phones now allowed

• It is no longer against high school rules to use a cell phone or pager at school, as long as they do not disrupt the *learning environment. Principal Michael Griffith said the new policy was implemented because of the proliferation of the devices and an uncertain world situation.* He added that he has not received any complaints since the rule was established at the beginning of the school year.

6th lunch packed

• Sixth period lunch is far more crowded than fourth or eighth, raising concerns that sixth period lunch poses a fire hazard. According to Assistant Principal Ann Spurrier, there are approximately 750 students in sixth period lunch, while there are only 950 students in fourth and eighth periods combined. She added that the cafeteria has a maximum capacity but is not a fire hazard.

West Nile spreads across Greater Cleveland area

By Cassie Heller
STAFF REPORTER

It's Saturday night and all of your friends are going to Horseshoe Lake for a picnic. What's the first thing you grab?

For some Shaker residents, it would be a heavy dose of bug spray, considering the early September diagnosis of a 47-year-old Onaway resident with West Nile virus. *This was the first Shaker case of West Nile. Since then, one other Shaker case has been confirmed, and new cases are being reported every day throughout Cuyahoga County.* Ninety-two of the 945 West Nile cases and five of the 43 deaths have been in Ohio. West Nile first came to the U.S. in 1999.

"I've been wearing pants more often. I'm not worried, but I'm more cautious," sophomore Joi Freeman said.

> "I've been wearing pants more often. I'm not worried, but I'm more cautious."
>
> Joi Freeman
> Sophomore

West Nile is a flu-like illness spread by bites of an infected mosquito and can lead to death, especially in infants and people over 50 or with weak immune systems.

Many Northeast Ohio communites have begun spraying pesticides in an attempt to kill infected mosquitoes, despite the controversy it causes. According to the Sierra Club, which objects to spraying, the number of people who will be seriously affected by West Nile is too small to outweigh the risks of spraying.

"West Nile virus is here. We are not waiting for it this year," said Sandy Hurley, a nurse at the Shaker Heights Health Department. Shaker Heights has found success in using larvicides — powder chemicals that kill mosquito larvae in standing water. Traps are used to assess the virus risk. According to Hurley, Shaker's mosquito count is too low for a need to spray.

Nevertheless, some students remain concerned.

West Nile Virus in the United States, 2002
Verified avian, animal, and mosquito infections during 2002, as of September 13, 2002
Pattern indicates human case(s)
courtesy of CDC

"I have some friends who are scared to go outside for very long at night without spraying a lot of bug spray," said senior Phillip Kantor, who himself is not worried. "I think that people get a lot more nervous about it than they should."

Two former Shaker teachers die during summer vacation

• Dennis Hogue passes away in Florida

By Kyan Safavi
NEWS EDITOR

Shaker Heights High School lost another member of its extended family in August. Dennis Hogue, a former math teacher who taught at the high school for 25 years, passed away at the age of 55.

Because the funeral was held in Massachusetts where several members of Hogue's family live, few Shaker teachers had the opportunity to attend. Instead, the math teachers took time to meditate as a group.

"We talked amongst ourselves and reflected on his passing," said mathematics department Chair Gene Tournoux.

Hogue was a highly active member of the Shaker Heights district, working tirelessly in a number of diverse organizations.

Hogue

His assistance with United Way was one of the most memorable aspects of his tenure at Shaker, according to many teachers.

Hogue was also the supervisor of the Junior Council on World Affairs (JCWA) as well as coach to the Raider baseball team. He retired in 1999.

All memorial contributions were made to the American Heart Association and the American Lung Association.

• Helen Byrdsong's life ended by heart attack

FROM BYRDSONG PAGE 1

along with English classmates Lauren Robinson and Chelci Williams, took on the task of informing all of Byrdsong's former students of the passing.

They went from house to house, spending well over a day in their attempt to spread awareness of Byrdsong's death.

Several letters and cards from former students were signed and delivered to Byrdsong's family. A group of about 20 students joined mourners at her funeral.

Byrdsong's life was filled with a lively resolve to advance education. She wrote a pamphlet, "Navigating the Rough Seas of the Educational System," as a guide for students and parents.

Byrdsong, also in the Karamu Women's Club, founded the group Women Helping Educate Women (WHEW), which deals with issues that focus on helping women persevere through life.

"Girls still do not understand all they can be," Byrdsong wrote in the pamphlet.

Byrdsong is survived by her daughters, a companion, a granddaughter, two sisters, and a brother.

"I plan to spend time with my grandkids and maybe do some gambling in Las Vegas," she had said of her retirement plans in an interview at the end of last year.

"I don't usually say 'hi' to teachers when I see them in the halls or in classes, but whenever I saw Mrs. Byrdsong I always did," Weatherspoon said.

Past Shaker students arrested for assault

By Sara Reichstein
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The arrests of current and former Shaker students for two unrelated crimes last week drew surprised and sorrowful reactions.

Sixteen-year-old Rodney Taylor, 17-year-old Joshua Taulbee, and 18-year-old Christian Davenport were charged with the Aug. 14 assault and robbery of South Park Boulevard resident Kevin O'Donnell. On Sept. 18, 24-year-old Yusef DeJarnette turned himself for shootings three people while riding his bicycle in Beachwood and Cleveland Heights.

Students who knew the suspects were astonished.

Sophomore Cordell Miller was surprised at Taylor's arrest. "I was shocked because I didn't think he would do that," he said.

However, others were unsympathetic. "I think it was stupid. It's like, why would you have to rob anybody," sophomore Ashley Lugar said. "It's pointless. You're gonna get caught no matter what. They just shouldn't have done it."

FROM YOUNG PAGE 1

exonerated after a three-week trial in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court during which the prosecution failed to show any evidence placing him at the crime.

Young is now released on personal bond. The Shaker Heights police department has received many calls from parents who worry that Young is a "time bomb just waiting to go off," as one mother told The Plain Dealer.

Junior Hallie Dietsch, whose family is friends with the Youngs, feels that Young has been unfairly branded as guilty.

"He's just a normal guy. I would not consider him a menace in any way, shape or form," Dietsch said.

Top Ten

the great things about super crowded 6th period lunch

10 It's ridiculously easy to steal food 9 It's a good way to treat claustrophobia 8 It's like a singles' club! 7 In the winter you can use each others' body heat for warmth 6 You can crowd surf to the lunch line 5 Who needs all that fresh air? 4 It makes for really intense food fights 3 Someone in there is bound to have the homework you forgot to do 2 It's still less crowded than the stairways 1 Nobody will know it's your tray left on the table.

'Rite Artist

the EAVESDROPPING ON TERROR...

Allison Vitkus •THE SHAKERITE

Mind your own Hobbit

• "Lord of the Rings" fans pose a threat to security

BY RICK JENNINGS
OPINION EDITOR

On Sept. 10, school security forces swooped down upon a gang. Its activities were quickly discovered, and the ringleader was escorted to the security office by 8:30 a.m.

Fear not, citizens. The Hobbit gang is no more.

Before school started, junior Tim Isreal paraphrased a line of a J.R.R. Tolkien book "The Fellowship of the Ring" and posted it on his friend Mitch Frank's locker.

"Here lie the books and notes of Mitch. Speak, friend, and enter."

Isreal then translated the sentence into Cirth, a language of Tolkien's creation, and scrawled it on a piece of paper. Satisfied with their heinous and threatening acts, the two gang members walked off, leaving behind appalled onlookers.

They thought they could get away with it, but the eagle-eyed security guards immediately found the paper. Not being able to read it, they assumed the worst.

According to Frank, (who was released after it was determined that he was no longer a threat to the school community) security guards couldn't read the paper and thought it was either written in Arabic or gang symbols. Frank was tracked down and escorted from his Playwriting I class to the security office at around 8:30 a.m.

Under pressure from his interrogators, Frank cracked and ratted out his associate. He was told that this was prime recruiting season for gangs, meaning that along with Youth Ending Hunger and the French Club, the Hobbit gang and others around the school were actively engaged in a membership drive.

While Frank will keep a low profile, his associate hinted that we haven't heard the last of the Hobbits. Perhaps we'll find "Frodo Rules!" scrawled on a chalkboard. Maybe we'll hear talk of wizardry and Legolas and rings. Perchance, we'll get caught in the middle of an intellectual turf war with the Trekkies.

But if a short kid with pointy ears comes up to you, just run the other direction. Don't be part of the problem.

Griffith sets the right tone

The back-to-school assembly is an opportunity to see all the kids you forgot over the summer and to mouth a conversation with your best friend sitting on the other side of the gym. Sometimes you may even listen to the speaker going on and on about how great Shaker is and how wonderful this school year will be.

But this year you may have noticed that Principal Michael Griffith's speech was more serious and focused on improving school climate. The student response to Griffith was also different: there was less talking and fewer outbreaks of sarcastic clapping. After last year's tug-of-war between students and administrators, this speech – delivered at the beginning of Griffith's third year as principal – may mark his move from observer to leader.

Griffith began the year right with a clear message, a reasonable goal of improving school climate and a plan for doing so. He correctly described the students and faculty as a family. As a family, we have strengths and weaknesses; the weaknesses are what we need to work on.

To reach that goal, Griffith plans to continue teacher dialogue groups that met over the summer to discuss improving the school environment. He hopes to include students in these groups to obtain a more balanced view of the problems and concerns. However, students must be willing to sincerely participate if these discussions are to have any effect.

This speech may mark Griffith's move from observer to leader.

Griffith also promises to speak more frequently to students about climate. He used this strategy earlier this month with an announcement about the successful start of the school year, a necessary follow-up to his speech. Through these statements, Griffith hopes to positively reinforce good behaviors and address those that need improvement. If he continues to make similar statements throughout the year, he will help convey the administration's expectations and increase their presence in students' lives.

Griffith has set the tone for a good start. Students, teachers and administrators need to follow his lead so this year will end as successfully as it began.

Sept. 11 tributes miss the point

• Commercialization trivializes the tragedy

Sixteen days ago, our nation commemorated the loss of more than 3,000 lives in the most fatal and striking attack of terrorism on our homeland.

However, memorializing began in the months preceding Sept. 11, and it will likely continue in the months to come. It seems as though Americans have grown obsessed with remembering, and we have seen the efforts balloon to outrageous proportions that obscure what we are trying to honor. Yes, putting the World Trade Center on every magazine cover and dotting every ad window with American flags is patriotic and loyal. But it misses the point. As citizens we should not pledge allegiance or insist on fighting a war against the bad guys. We should instead acknowledge the astonishing human loss that we witnessed a little more than a year ago. Instead of wearing the countless mass-produced New York Fire Department T-shirts or hearing blunting lectures on extinguishing terrorism, we should reflect on the events in our own way, and not subject ourselves to things that make Sept. 11 trivial.

It seems as though Americans have grown obsessed with remembering.

Our society is plagued by a need to over dramatize and then commercialize. We like to have things made bigger than life so that everyone can get a share, and then materialize things in an effort to make them more understandable (and, on occasion, to make a profit). This should not be the way with Sept. 11. It is our duty to remember such an important day. But it is also our duty to keep that memory somber and clear, so that generations from now the events may be remembered as they should be, and not as a degradation of an infamous day.

The Rite Idea represents the editorial voice of The Shakerite. Editorials are written and chosen by a majority vote of the members of the editorial board. Members are denoted in the staff box.

Who closed the city?

I walked through a barren wasteland on my way to work. I'm referring, of course, to Euclid Avenue at 5:30 pm on Sunday. From Tower City to E. 14th Street, I counted six people. If Cleveland wants to be taken seriously as a lively, happenin' place, the city has to stay open past normal business hours.

Rick Jennings

Too much belly to stomach

I know we say this every-day, but boo to girls who come to school showing their entire stomach. These shirts are impractical, inappropriate and dumb. Fancy events like the VMA's are one thing, but math class is another!

10-Second tick-offs

Lauren Gardner

Perpetrator panic

It's really disappointing that some Shaker residents feel that they have to leave because of a few bad apples. Yes, recently some criminals were arrested here, but that does not make Shaker a horrible place to live. Any place you move will have just as many criminals. We need good citizens to stay here!

Becca Bonthius

Teachers too chatty

Hey teachers! If students aren't allowed to leave class to have conversations in the hall, why are you? You claim there isn't enough time to teach, but some of you are in the hall most of the period. When we talk in class, teachers try to make us share the conversation, so why shouldn't teachers have to do the same?

David Morgenstern

In the year since Sept. 11th,
Americans have responded
with pride and . . .

PATRIOTISM

(OTHERWISE KNOWN AS PROFITS)

After Sept. 11, patriotism surged, leading to an outpour of national spirit and -- in true American fashion -- an abundance of red, white and blue merchandise. But how altruistic is the marketing of these items? Who really benefits from the profits? Are businesses and organizations just exploiting a national tragedy, or are they simply honoring the United States in a time of crisis? This month, in light of the anniversary of the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks, Centerpiece explores these questions in the halls of the high school and in the aisles of local stores.

Jeanne Bright-THE SHAKERITE

Shaker displays American pride at a price

By Marguerite Moore
STAFF REPORTER

The voices of the A Cappella Choir, harmonizing "America the Beautiful" over the PA system, filled the silent classrooms of the high school on the one-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Following Principal Michael Griffith's address to the school at 10:01 a.m. (the time that the first tower collapsed), three minutes of silence overwhelmed the school.

Sophomore Katie McGill thought the ceremony was appropriate and poignant.

"I got very emotional during it. It was carried out in the right way; it wasn't corny," she said.

The day offered a solemn observance of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. However, in the months leading up to the anniversary, it grew harder to decide whether patriotism had been exaggerated or even exploited for gain.

Flags on the field

To show their support, field hockey coaches had American flag patches sewn on to the team's new jerseys.

"It was all the coach," said senior Nikki Goldstein, varsity field hockey co-captain. "We didn't even know it was happening. When we got the uniforms, it was the first thing we noticed. We didn't get an explanation."

Senior varsity player Camilla Cullis was pleased with the new jerseys.

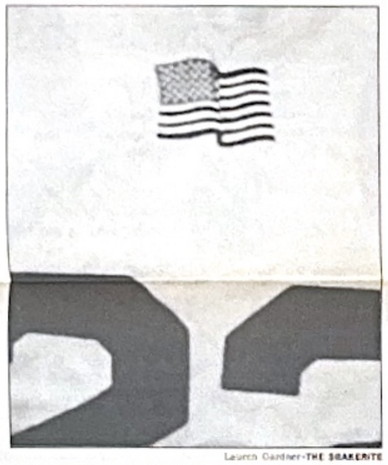
"It shows that we're supporting the country. It's a part of our life now," she said.

Clare Malone, a sophomore varsity player, also reacted positively.

"I think that it's nice that we have them. Our coach last year [also] gave us stickers to put on our sticks."

Goldstein, in contrast, was not fond of the addition of the flags.

"It's just 'cause the U.S. got really patriotic after 9/11," she said.



Lauren Gardner-THE SHAKERITE

SENIOR Nikki Goldstein, field hockey co-captain, sports one of the new uniforms that feature an American flag on the back.

United we stand

Looking through her closet on Sept. 11, junior Christine Wagner made a conscious decision to wear a flag T-shirt in honor of the anniversary.

"I wanted to show remembrance for the day," she said. "I think people feel that they need to support their country more."

Senior Aaron Wasserman, who plans to join the military after high school, approves of patriotic displays at school.

"I think it's great. It brings the country together under the realm of the American dream," Wasserman said.

While acknowledging the occasional exaggerated display of American pride, junior Benaud Jones still feels that patriotism is uniting the country and school.

"There is no tacky when you're being patriotic," Jones said.

Here today, gone tomorrow?

Despite the original intent of glorifying the American spirit, a number of Shaker students feel that patriotism has become a noble title for a superficial fashion trend.

"I was in the Birkenstock store at Shaker Square and there was a shoe with the American flag design on it," sophomore Amanda Fulwood said. "I think it's insulting how they use the emotions affiliated with Sept. 11 for commercial gain."

Cullis concurs that patriotism has reached a discourteous level.

"I've seen T-shirts that say, 'I've Been At Ground Zero'. That is tacky and disrespectful at the same time. That's when it gets out of hand. Every company has a flag on their T-shirts now," she said.

"It's like they're using the terrorist attacks for profit, and I don't agree with that at all."

Question: Do you think that American merchandise like FDNY and United We Stand T-shirts are displays of patriotism or profiteering/ tackiness?

Scientific poll of 93 students with a margin of error of +/-10 percent

Wagner agreed. "[In order to] be patriotic you have to know what your country's doing and what they stand for. Being tacky is when you don't know anything and you're just saying 'I love America.'"

Another issue students identified is uncertainty about where the money spent on patriotic products winds up.

"I hope the profits are going to charity. I think that people are pretty good about it," Malone said. Fulwood worries that the money might be going to less honorable causes.

"I think [the profits] are going to CEOs," Fulwood said.

"I don't think it's going to the victims. If people are selling shirts, [the money] is not going to the people who need it."

For this reason, senior Grant Meacham, who views himself as an anti-patriot, made his own T-shirt to wear on Sept. 11. The shirt read, "Pacifism, not patriotism. War is not a solution."

"The American flag is a really hot item to have on clothing," Meacham explained, expressing his feeling that companies are using peer pressure and dulling Americans' freedom of speech.

"Clothing companies are whoring out a tragedy. It's not 'We're proud to be American.' It's 'Hey, we can make more money.'"

Though not an anti-patriot, Fulwood agreed that profiteering has tainted the notion of patriotism. "I think patriotism is the in thing now," she said. "It's all superficial. People feel obligated."

Malone summed up her opinion with one blatant example.

"Tacky is when you wear the American flag on your butt," she said.

Back to school, red, white and blue

By Lauren Gardner
CENTERPIECE EDITOR

I love back to school shopping. After the first day of school, with supply list in hand, I rushed to Office Max and began my adventure, heading down the aisles checking off items. Binders? Check. Folders? Check. Pencils? I was stuck. Standing in front of the shelves filled with every kind of pencil imaginable, I was lost amid the mechanical and the wood, the number twos and number threes. Overwhelmed, I decided to look for an old favorite- the black, plastic mechanical Bic pencils. Those should be simple enough.

> "Clothing stores once again have red, white and blue window displays. Am I the only one who thought to myself 'Here we go again...'?"

However, after scanning the whole aisle for about five minutes, I was disappointed to find that clear, plastic Bics adorned with red, white and blue had replaced my classic choice!

Well, Sept. 11 was approaching, but does anyone really find comfort in the fact that green, purple and pink had been removed from the Bic fall lineup?

This seemingly minor detail actually presented a question much bigger than the whereabouts of the missing Bic colors. Have we exploited the patriotism that swelled a year ago?

Though we can all agree that the burst of support for our country was a much welcomed gesture that came too late, would America's newfound patriotism really have had the same profundity if all along we were driving around with United We Stand bumper stickers on our cars? Probably not.

Clothing stores are once again sporting window displays filled with trendy red, white and blue outfits. Once again, public service announcements and special presentations supporting our soldiers have filled the airwaves. Am I the only one who thought to myself, "Here we go again...?"

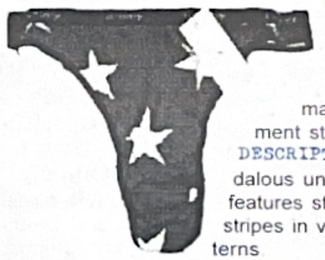
I don't mean to diminish the cause or come across as anti-American, but maybe genuine patriotism is just too idealistic for our free-enterprise society. There is a point when reproducing the colors of Old Glory becomes tacky. Even though that line may be fuzzy, at best, the red, white and blue Bic pencils surely lie on the other side.

The Shakerite rated four products that got a red, white and blue makeover for Sept. 11. We judged them based on a scale of four flags, with one flag being the tackiest and four being the most patriotic.

Stars and Stripes Birkenstocks

PRICE: $54.99
RETAILER: Birkenstocks at Shaker Square
DESCRIPTION: Although these unique sandals are still unmistakably Birkenstocks, they are also unmistakably red, white and blue -- even though they're made in Germany.
PATRIOTISM FACTOR: What better way to support Old Glory than on your feet?
TACK-O-METER: The stars and stripes on this shoe only profit the Birkenstock company.
RATING:

Patriotic Tommy Hilfiger Thong



PRICE: $8.00
RETAILER: Most major department stores
DESCRIPTION: Scandalous underwear that features stars and stripes in various patterns.
PATRIOTISM FACTOR: Are you kidding?
TACK-O-METER: Nothing like a flag in your crack to support your country.
RATING:

Topps Enduring Freedom Trading Cards

PRICE: $1.99 per pack
RETAILER: Any general stores- Target, Rite Aid, etc.
DESCRIPTION: Trading cards profiling American heroes of Sept. 11, including public figures and specific ships and tanks.
PATRIOTISM FACTOR: Those who fight for our country deserve at least as much respect as John Rocker.
TACK-O-METER: It's hard to imagine little Johnny running home to trade five George W. Bushes for one Colin Powell.
RATING:

NYPD Action Figures

PRICE: $34.90 for one
RETAILER: Anywhere that sells toys -- Target, WalMart, Toys 'R' Us
DESCRIPTION: NYPD officer totes submachine gun into action against terrorists.
PATRIOTISM FACTOR: Police should be honored for going after the bad guys.
TACK-O-METER: Gun is scary and not exactly soothing during this twitchy time.
RATING:

the RUMOR Mill

Breathalyzers at dances?

By Will Wemer
FEATURE EDITOR

As I entered school five weeks ago, I couldn't resist listening in on a few hallway conversations to catch up on the latest news. What I heard made me wonder if the summer heat had damaged our administrators' brains.

If my facts were right, all dances had been cancelled. Yet, even though no dances were planned, one would have to take a Breathalyzer test to get in, even to this spring's *junior/* senior prom.

Worse yet, seniors would have to eat lunch with normal folk because the senior lounge had been shut down.

I thought some of the info was a little sketchy so I descended on the principal's office to set the record straight. When I shared the dirt with Principal Michael D. Griffith, he responded with smiles, dumb-founded looks and laughs as he tried to grasp how misinformed the student body was.

First off, dances are not going away. **Every dance that *was held last year is scheduled to happen this year*, including the back-to-school dance, homecoming, winter ball and the spring fling.**

Also, Griffith is in contact with the senior class about holding an October/November dance as a class fundraiser. In fact, when students concerned about the canceled dances approached Griffith over the summer, "I just sort of laughed," he said.

Griffith said he knows of no plans for a junior/senior prom, and that he has not been approached about the idea.

And Griffith said the rumor about mandatory Breathalyzer tests at dances is false.

"If it got to the point that we are so concerned [about drinking], we've lost it," he said. "What's the point of the event if there's no trust?"

As for the senior lounge, Griffith is not only averse to the idea of closing it, he hopes to improve it.

"It's really sterile," Griffith said. His ideas include adding a ping-pong table and a weekly/monthly lunch service. His goal is to make the senior lounge "more like a social lounge".

Given the giant information gap that developed over the summer, maybe heat isn't good for students. Or maybe the administrators really need to cool down the school. Hey y'all, you're not going to believe this. They're gonna add a brand-new air cond...

U$e ene, $ave dollar$

•Small purchases add up for Shaker students in long run

By Kelly Schaefer
FEATURE EDITOR

Maybe you buy fries every day, a can of pop each afternoon, a CD every two weeks and a movie ticket a month. Not bad in terms of spending your money, you say? Right-only $882.75 a year on things most people would agree are unnecessary. Consider your four years of high school, and that figure rises to more than $3,500.

Those are the basics-the small snack, drink and entertainment almost every teenager enjoys. Factor in clothing, restaurants and snacks and frivolous buys, and it's no wonder many teenagers find themselves constantly out of cash.

Freshman Kathyrn Guess said she normally buys two CDs a week, which adds up to almost $1,800 per year. "I buy them brand new unless I'm looking for something vintage. Sometimes I think a CD will be really awesome, and I buy it and it ends up stinking. It's really annoying," Guess said.

Business education teacher Larry Gold, who teaches a personal finance class, recognizes the problems students have in dealing with money. "Kids have difficulties differentiating between wants and needs. Kids need clothing, but do they need designer clothing?" Gold asks.

Senior Kevin Robinson found that expensive clothing was one of the biggest factors in depleting his cash supply.

"It's all about who's got the best gear; it's a competition. The stuff I really want costs a lot," Robinson said, noting that he ends up buying less expensive clothing because of steep price tags on designer items. "The nicer shoes are $100-200. If I spend $200 on shoes, that'll mess my money up because I won't have those shoes forever."

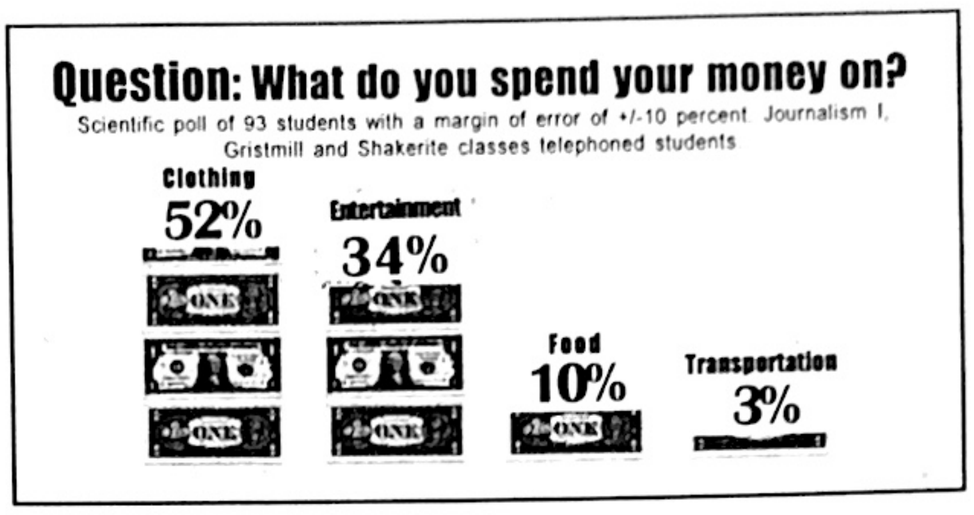
Junior Cordell Miller also thinks the price of brand name clothing is remarkably high. "Some coats cost $700 because of the brand. It's not always worth it. It depends if [the buyer] likes it, if it's a fashion thing. We all end up spending a lot of money on shoes and boots," Miller said.

Gold argues against feeling compelled to buy expensive clothing. Instead he advocates individualism and comparative shopping rather than buying the first attractive and popular piece of clothing you see.

"What I find interesting is how all the kids want to be individuals, but how so many kids dress alike," Gold said. "Most kids don't shop, they buy. Shopping gives the impression that you're doing price comparisons. Part of the problem is that they don't learn this at home. Many parents talk to their kids about sex, but not money."

Senior David Green agrees that small purchases add up, as demonstrated by the $630 cost of a $3.50 lunch every school day for one year. "The only time I buy lunch is on pizza day, because it's the only lunch really worth paying for," he said.

Gold's suggestions on saving money allow students to slowly accumulate extra cash. "If you're looking for a method of saving money, empty your pockets of all change at the end of every day, put it in a jar, and when it turns into a substantial amount of money, put it in a savings account," Gold said.



Rachel Morgenstern-Clarren • THE SHAKERITE

New CDs $18 two/month $432/year
Used CDs $7 two/month $168/year
Save *$264/year* buying used CDs

Soda, vending 75 cents one/day $273.75/year
Soda, 24-pack 21 cents one/day $76.65/year
Save *$197.10/year* buying 24-packs of pop

Ticket, Shaker Sq. $7.50 one/week $390/year
Ticket, Willoughby Hills $1.50 a show one/week $78/year
Save $312/year going to Willoughby Hills 10

New teachers on the block

•Match the teachers with their quirky biographies

A. Christine McBurney
Theater Arts

B. Angela Harrell
Mathematics

1. This teacher is a Sagittarius who has 14-month-old twins and a miniature poodle named Czar. If she could have a superhero quality she would fly because then she could travel for free.

2. You might find this teacher dancing Hungarian folk or learning hip-hop from her 8-year-old daughter at home. Don't be surprised to see her wearing her favorite style of plaid, called black watch.

3. This piano lover enjoys Ben & Jerry's Cherry Garcia and has met David Letterman and spoke with him about music in the Midwest.

4. Watch out for this teacher's psychotic cat named The Boo, and don't try to tell him that the tooth fairy still exists because he stopped believing in her when he was 5 years old. He enjoys watching "South Park" and "The Simpsons".

ANSWERS: 3-A, 1-B, 4-C, 2-D

-Compiled by Pamela Wiznitzer

C. James Schmidt
Science

D. Elizabeth Taylor
Library

Belsan makes the wheels go 'round

FROM MECHANIC, PAGE 1

occupy himself with all of the daily tasks in the maintenance garage, such as repairing the interiors and exteriors of damaged buses and trucks and keeping track of the gas and parts usage. Belsan said the most common mechanic's task is preventative maintenance.

All of these duties are focused on keeping the automobiles in perfect shape for the state highway patrol audits that take place three times a year.

"Our main concern has always been safety," Belsan said.

In addition to maintaining the vehicles, Belsan helps outfit old buses for use by high school clubs and activities. His most recent project is a seat-less bus that will be used to help transport band equipment to football games.

Will Bostwick • THE SHAKERITE
MECHANIC Joe Belsan, a nationally certified bus technician, says his job is mostly based on preventative maintenance

Heard in the Halls

Overheard, out of context, but funny anyway

"Who you going with?"
"Me, myself and I."
"I feel you, girl."
9.6.02

"Does anyone have a tampon?"
A boy in the JV boys lockerroom
9.5.02

"And when I kicked her back, she sent me to the *office*!"
9.5.02

"You know that guy that wants to get with me? He's so funny!"
9.12.02

(Whistle)
"That teacher look *good*!"
9.10.02

-Compiled by Kelly Schaefer and Will Wemer

Class of '99 grad is idolized

• Shaker alum John Manly appeared on American Idol in June 2002

FROM IDOL, PAGE 1

emerged from the 10,000 hopefuls. In L.A., Manly had two days to memorize five songs assigned by the show's producers. He then performed the songs in front of three judges. In between, he hung out with finalists Justin Guarini and Tamayra Gray. Manly described them as "awesome."

Manly's singing career began long before he reached the stage of American Idol.

"I've always been brought up around music," said Manly, who as a third-grader was the youngest member of an all-adult church choir in North Carolina. He continued with music at Shaker, where he was president of the Chanticleers and a member of the A Cappella Choir. One highlight of his Shaker career came when he sang with artist Shania Twain at Blossom Music Center.

Shaker choir director Robert Schneider remembers the day well. "I received a call just before the day we sang with Shania Twain and was asked if I had a student who would sing a duet with her," Schneider said. "It was such short notice, I couldn't imagine anyone wanting to sing in front of thousands at Blossom. I thought if anyone could do it, John could."

Schneider was right.

"They gave me a standing ovation at the end, which was absolutely thrilling," Manly said.

Schneider thought the praise was well deserved. "He brought the house down at Blossom Music Center," he said.

> "Most students find it hard to keep singing, but John loves it so much he's still finding a way to make music."
>
> Robert Schneider
> Choir Director

Outside of school, Manly sang in his band, Blue Wysteria. The band was in the High School Rock Off Top 10, and for their senior project, they recorded "Blue Wysteria's Greatest Hits."

After high school, Manly went to the University of Toledo on a football scholarship and transferred to Nicholls State University in Louisiana sophomore year. Even with his busy schedule --- Manly still plays football — he finds time for music.

"Most students find it hard to keep singing, but John loves it so much, he's still finding a way to make music," Schneider said.

Manly appeared on TV the second episode of the show.

"He was on for a little scenario, just a little part of the audition," said his father, Cornelius Manly. "They did a little scene where he came out with the two producers and had himcall his mom. That was exciting."

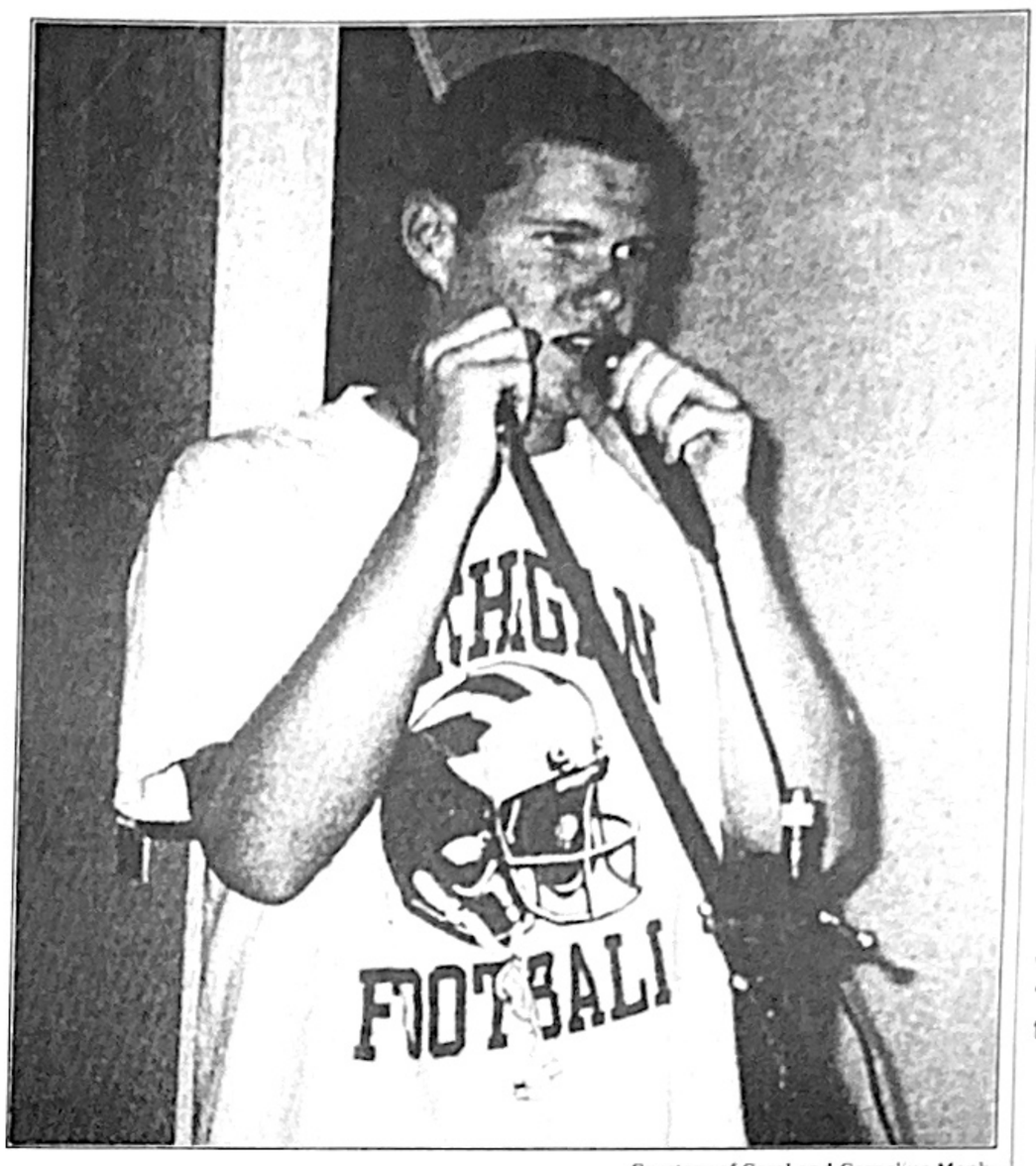
Although Manly was cut from the show soon after, he was not disappointed.

"I took from it what I wanted and got a good experience," Manly said. "It's not my kind of music."

Manly's U.S. history teacher, Rhona Pessel, agreed that he is not the idol type. "I can never imagine him as an American Idol," Pessel said. "Some kids are really popular, outgoing on stage. I didn't get those vibes (from John)."

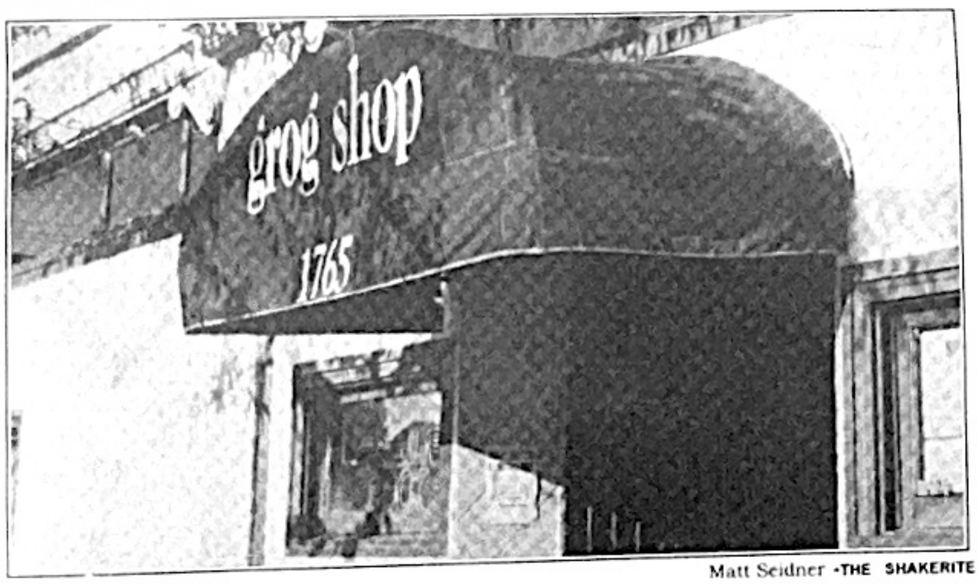
Manly has not let the cut affect him. Over the summer he worked at Clear Channel Entertainment and recorded a CD, "I'll Go South" at Metro Sync Studios.

"I'd like to do music in the future, wherever it leads me," Manly said.



Courtesy of Carol and Cornelius Manly

MANLY practicing his senior year with his band Blue Wysteria. Manly auditioned for American Idol in June and appeared on national TV.



Matt Seidner -THE SHAKERITE

THE Grog Shop, located on Coventry, will soon be closing. The building is going to be converted into apartments.

The Grog is closing up shop

By Matt Seidner
STAFF REPORTER

Is rock really dead, even in the home of rock 'n' roll?

The plight of the Grog Shop, a premier venue for Cleveland's local bands, has raised the question among fans of live music.

Six months ago, Grog Shop owner Kathy Simkoff learned her lease was in jeopardy because a Shaker developer bought the Coventry Road building to turn it into apartments.

"A lot of the other clubs like the Agora and Peabody's are really shysty about local bands. It's gonna shut down half of the local bands," senior Josh Rivers said of the club's closing. Rivers is a guitarist for The Skanktronics, a local band that plays at the Grog Shop, which offers fans an intimate concert experience.

"That would ruin the whole atmosphere of Coventry," sophomore Colin Duffy said.

Simkoff vows to keep the music playing at another location.

"We are not going to be closing down. I have every intention of doing the Grog Shop and continuing to promote the bands, hopefully in a bigger, better space sometime in the spring," Simkoff said.

Junior Caleb Boise frowns on the move. "I think it's going to ruin the feel of the Grog Shop. Bigger can sometimes not be better," Boise said.

Dance Dance Revolution steps it up in Shaker

By Liz Campbell
A&E EDITOR

Arcade games are no longer about shooting the enemy. Now players can attempt to improve their dance skills with the game Dance Dance Revolution.

Junior Andy Cameron and senior Clifton Robinson play the popular pastime at Parmatown Mall every Saturday, sometimes joined by junior Ben Ouellette and senior Omar Rassi.

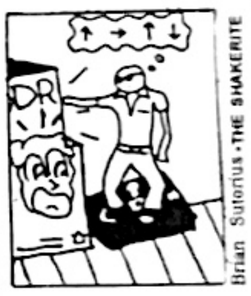
"We can go from one in the afternoon until nine at night," Cameron said.

To succeed, a player must step on an arrow on the "dance floor" board, which corresponds to an illuminated arrow on the screen.

DDR, as the game is commonly known among participants, originated in Japan in 1997 and expanded to include Korean and American versions.

Robinson discovered DDR three years ago in California. He purchased a PlayStation and the game consul version about one year ago and introduced Cameron to the game.

Hoping to spread their enthusiasm, Cameron and Robinson are now interested in making DDR an official club. English teacher Eleni Manous-Nolan has agreed to be their adviser and the proposal will be presented to Student Council.



Brian Sutorius - THE SHAKERITE

"We've had a lot of interest," Robinson said. "We have an excess of 30 [prospective] members right now, and due to a lack in funding, we'd have to get it down to 15."

"Cliff is the king of DDR. We are absolutely insane about this," Cameron said.

five Minute critic

"Swimfan"

Starring: Erika Christensen, Jesse Bradford
Director: John Polson

"Swimfan" was a B+ movie about a psychopath stalking a swimmer. Madison Bell (Christensen) moves into town and manages to ruin the perfect lives of senior high school student Ben Cronin (Bradford), star swimmer and Stanford recruit, and his girlfriend. If you want to be scared, rent "Scream." But if you want to laugh, see "Swimfan" at the dollar theater.

Rebecca Wolff

"My Big Fat Greek Wedding"

Starring: Nia Vardalos, John Corbett
Director: Joel Zwick

This movie is full of funny moments revolving around Toula Portokalos (Vardalos) and her family, who are very proud of their Greek heritage.

Toula's parents want their daughter married, but not to the non-Greek Ian Miller (Corbett), to whom Toula is engaged.

As Toula's family learns to accept Ian, many entertaining scenes come to life. "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" is definitely worth every penny.

Liz Campbell

"Feardotcom"

Starring: Stephen Dorff, Natascha McElhone
Director: William Malone

In "Feardotcom" detective Mike Reilly (Dorff) and health examiner Terry Houston (McElhone) investigate strange deaths that have been caused by a website pertaining to killing and torture.

"Feardotcom" attempts to be scary and intriguing, playing on the idea that energy can travel through the internet.

It ends up being long, boring and unnecessarily gruesome.

Katherine Ekeberg

The Shakerite

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critique.

The Shakerite will hold a critique session on Monday, September 30 at 3 pm. All students and faculty are invited to attend to comment on the content of the paper.

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Numbers, frustration plague women's JV soccer

By Jeff Greenwald
SPORTS EDITOR

It is hard to win a game when your team is at full strength, but the task becomes nearly impossible when you have three fewer players on the field than your opponent.

The women's junior varsity soccer team faced this situation Sept. 21 during a 6-1 loss to Sylvania Southview. The team began the game with only 11 of the 14 players on their roster, but following an injury to one girl and a late start that forced two other girls to leave for other commitments, Shaker was forced to play eight on 11.

"It was frustrating because after we started losing players everyone had to play two positions," senior Co-captain Laura Juengst said.

The team has struggled to find enough participants all year. "Initially we didn't have enough people and varsity people would have to play down with us during scrimmages," senior Co-captain Amy Broadbent said.

The team has had a different coach and a below .500 season the last three years. Many players opted not to return because they did not want to deal with another new coach.

"I think they didn't have the right coach. If you lose game after game and go to practice without knowing what to do, it gets frustrating," first-year JV Coach John Mudri said.

As the season approached, the team still lacked the numbers to compete. "People just asked their friends. Some people were unsure if they were going to play, and we had to convince them," freshman Laura Spiegler said.

Although the team currently has enough players and a 4-4 record, commitment to the team has been an issue and Athletic Director Susan Brown was called in to talk to the team last week. "She said if girls did not start coming to practice they would close the JV program for the rest of this year," Juengst said.

Mudri is involved in Shaker youth soccer and hopes it can become a feeder system for the high school.

Sarah Wang • THE SHAKERITE

ASSISTANT Soccer Coach Alex Karpenko stands along the sideline of a JV game while the team's lone sub sits exhausted next to him.

Coming together as winners

"You know that your team is always there to support you, and that helps a lot."
-Senior Amber Rucker

• Best team in years still chasing state powerhouses

By Jeff Greenwald
SPORTS EDITOR

The women's tennis team is using a mixture of young and old players to bring together one of the best seasons in the team's history.

"Our singles teams are outstanding," said senior doubles player Lauren Story. Senior Amber Rucker and freshman Jessie Schiller rotate through the number one and number two singles positions, while sophomore Lindsay Holloway plays at third singles. Rucker and Schiller are a combined 22-3 at singles and 4-0 as doubles partners.

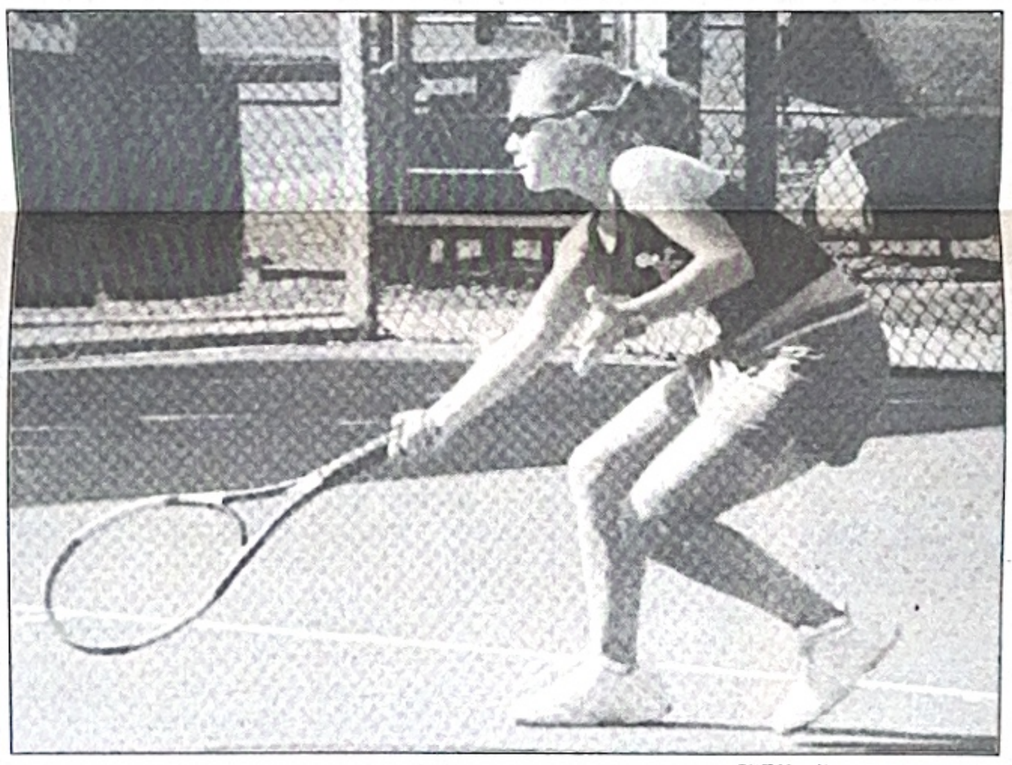
The team's overall record is 13-3 and they were ranked sixth in the state by a recent coaches' poll. "I think this is one of our best teams. Overall it's a good year," Head Coach Allan Slawson said.

Veteran players feel this team is ahead of those in the past for many reasons, but most of all because of its camaraderie. "This year I feel like we are more of a team. As seniors I feel we are more friendly with the freshmen than I experienced," said senior Ally Gregg-Zellars, who pairs with Story at first doubles.

"You know that your team is always there to support you, and that helps a lot," Rucker said.

Two of the team's losses came in a close 3-2 match against Hawken and a blowout by Walsh Jesuit. "I don't want to say we should have won [the Hawken match], but we could have won. It's the kind of match that if we played them 10 times we would probably win five," Slawson said.

Although the team is the best in years, it still falls short of many powerhouses outside Northeast Ohio. "In the big picture we are a very good team, but I am aware there are teams out there that have more talent than we do," Slawson said. "People don't realize how good girls' tennis may be in the rest of the state. Teams like Upper Arlington may have seven players better than our best player."



Cliff Harding • THE SHAKERITE

Cliff Harding • THE SHAKERITE

FRESHMAN standout Jessie Schiller follows through after lunging for a forehand along the baseline. Sophomore Lindsay Holloway connects on a forehand during prematch warm-ups. Schiller will most likely team with senior Amber Rucker in an attempt to win a state championship at doubles.

Come check out the tennis team when they battle at Hathaway Brown on Sept. 30 at 4:15pm

A stroke ahead now

• Crew achieves only modified varsity status

By Katherine Ekeberg
SPORTS EDITOR

Members of the Shaker Heights crew team can now call themselves varsity athletes. Well, sort of.

Officially, they have been granted modified varsity status, which allows them to be recognized as a sport.

The team is thrilled with this advancement. "I've always thought that we deserved it. We work just as hard as, if not harder than the other sports," senior Co-caption Theresa Lee said.

Crew will now be included in the sports calendar and sports pages of the yearbook. Rowers will receive a varsity letter for four years of rowing, and they will also be allowed to participate in the spring sports awards banquet.

Modified Varsity

- Team now partakes in spring sports awards and has pages in sports section of yearbook
- *Still do not receive money from Shaker and must create own schedule

However, because crew will only be a modified varsity sport, the district will not provide the team with funding, and athletic directors are not responsible for scheduling regattas. The crew team formed as a club six years ago and practices two to three times a week on the Cuyahoga River.

Sarah Wang • THE SHAKERITE

SOPHOMORE Frederique Bruell follows through on a chip shot at the practice greens at Highland Park Golf Course. Bruell is an alternate on the men's golf team, but has been playing with the women's team since they began practicing.

Women tee off for first golf season

By Matt Seidner
STAFF REPORTER

When junior Lindsey Weed tried out for the men's golf team her freshman year, she was told that she could never make the team because she was a girl.

Weed decided to take matters into her own hands. "The fact that they said a girl couldn't make the guy's team made me want to make a team for the girls to prove the guys wrong," she said.

The women's team became official earlier this month after four other girls also voiced their desire to play. Sophomore Frederique Bruell and juniors Becca Bonthius, Sarah Cannon and Christina Senagore joined and practice every Tuesday and Thursday at Highland Park Golf Club with Weed's father, Fred Weed.

Coach Weed looks forward to helping the team. "I think I bring a great deal of expertise as it comes to putting, chipping and golf course management," he said.

As of press time, the team was not considered a varsity sport by the district, but it does meet the requirements. "There has to be enough interest to field the team," said Athletic Director Susan Brown. "For a golf team we'd like to have 10-12 people, but you don't need that many to play."

The new team is excited and optimistic for the future. "I think that in a couple years, with incoming freshmen, that we could really put together a good team," Senagore said.